

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02398 290047Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 /076 W
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P R 250754Z MAR 77 H/W ZDK CITING RUEHCSA2462 MCN REPORTED MISSING
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2846
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 2398

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR MARR KS US SPON
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS COVERAGE OF FONMIN'S RETURN; PRIMIN COMMENTS
ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL

1. MARCH 25 PRESS REPORTS FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN'S MARCH 24
PRESS CONFERENCE ON RETURN TO KOREA. PAK RE-AFFIRMED THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARIES VANCE AND BROWN ALL VIEW
RELATIONS WITH KOREA AS IMPORTANT AND THAT THERE IS NO
FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN U.S. COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE OF KOREA.
"PRESIDENT CARTER ANNOUNCED A USG POLICY GRADUALLY TO WITH-
DRAW U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA OVER R-5 YEARS, BUT THERE
WERE NO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUES," PAK
SAID. "IT APPEARS THAT THE U.S. WILL DRAW UP PLANS FOR THE
WITHDRAWAL OF USF/K THIS YEAR; CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR
GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME THEREAFTER,
" HE EXPLAINED.

2. IN PARTICULAR, STORY IN HOSON ILBO RECORDED THAT PAK
NOTED CARTER'S REFERENCE TO U.S. PLAN FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL
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WITHOUT MENTION OF A FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE ON ASSURING PEACE
IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA, OR CONCLUSION OF A NON-AGGRESSION
PACT BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. ARTICLE QUOTED PAK:
"I TOLD CARTER AND OTHER THAT, AS LONG AS THE OTHER SIDE
DOES NOT TAKE POSITIVE STEPS FOR REDUCTION OF TENSIONS, IT
WOULD NOT BE WISE FOR OUR SIDE TO TAKE UNILATERAL MEASURES;

AS LONG AS TENSIONS PERSIST ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, WE
MUST BE PRUDENT ABOUT CHANGING THE PRESENT SITUATION ON A
LARGE SCALE."

3. PAK IS ALSO QUOTED AS REITERATING THAT ROK WANTS NO
DEBATE ON KOREA AT UNGA THIS YEAR, AND WILL REFRAIN FROM
SUBMITTING AGENDA ITEM OR DRAFT RESOLUTION AS LONG AS NORTH
DOES LIKEWISE.

4. PAK'S SUGGESTED CONDITONS FOR WITHDRAWAL ECHO REMARKS
BY PIMIN CHOE TO BOSTON GLOBE, QUOTED SAME DAY, SUGGESTING
THAT U.S. TROOPS REMAIN FOR EXTENDED PERIOD, DENYING THT
WITHDRAWAL PLANS AFFECTED BY KOREAN DOMESTIC POLICIES, BUT
CONCLUDING THAT "IF THEY FIRMLY DECIDE TO WITHDRAW, WHAT
CAN WE DO?" CHOE ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE U.S.
"HAS NOT YET INITIATED CONSULTATIONS WITH ROK BUT WILL
CONTINUE TO HONOR THEIR SECURITY COMMITMENT..."
STERN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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